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INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3233
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6303
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2352
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: NLA VOTES TO LIFT BAN ON POLITICAL GATHERINGS

REF: A. BANGKOK 06352 (LIFTING THE BAN ON POLITICAL

MEETINGS)

[1](#)B. BANGKOK TH 090350Z NOV 06 (INSIGHTS ON MOD
CONCERNS ON INTERNAL INSTABILITY)

[1](#)C. BANGKOK TH 080705Z NOV 06 (MARTIAL LAW IN
THAILAND BEING RETAINED)

Classified By: Political Counselor Susan Sutton for reason 1.4 (b)

[1](#)1. (U) On November 9, the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) unanimously passed a bill to repeal the post-coup decree prohibiting gatherings of more than five persons for political purposes (see ref A). The original decree was issued on September 20 by the Council for Democratic Reform (now known as the Council for National Security - CNS). The NLA bill will now be passed to the interim government for final approval before being forwarded to the king for his signature. The bill will not officially come into effect until the king signs it, and the interim government publishes it in the royal gazette.

[1](#)2. (U) The president of the NLA, Meechai Ruchuphan said that political parties and the public will be able to return to political activities as normal as soon as the bill is finalized. (Comment: The draft bill was proposed to the NLA by the interim government, and it is expected that the bill will move forward for the king's signature swiftly. End comment.)

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Martial law remains in effect, but the NLA vote removes one of the more serious restrictions on civil liberties, and is a good step forward. End comment.
BOYCE